ASHEVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE
STATUS OF APPARATUS FLEET
January, 2007

- The City of Asheville uses the American Public Works Association (APWA) rating system for rating overall quality of fire apparatus. The rating system provides numeric values rating the apparatus in four distinct categories:
    - Under 18 points = Excellent
    - 18-22 points = Good
    - 23-27 points = Qualifies for replacement
    - 28 points and above = **Needs immediate replacement**
        - Currently 9 of 23 (39%) of AFR's emergency response apparatus falls into this category.

- Through a recent survey, no municipality in North Carolina through internal policy operates any fire apparatus beyond 15 years. However, many use the APWA rating system. In every city, replacement is a matter of available fiscal resources.

- Cost of a standard fire engine under the City of Asheville's current, valid bid is **$423,949.00**, without loose equipment. This is considered an excellent bid and it is valid through July, 2007 to enable us to purchase from that bid for FY 07-08. Purchasing additional engines off this bid will save significant tax dollars.

- Cost of a ladder truck is approximately $950,000.00, without loose equipment.

- The City of Asheville typically purchases apparatus through a lease purchase and pays for the equipment over a five year period.

- Delivery on a new fire engine is currently 14 months from the date of order. Delivery on a ladder truck is approximately 18 months.

- Newer apparatus cost less per mile to operate. Costs per mile are approximately 57% less on newer engines, costs are 76% less on newer ladders, all on average.

- Newer apparatus is much safer as cabs are enclosed and new apparatus provides air bags for roll over protection in the event of an accident. Requirements are now more stringent. Newer apparatus also allows for more efficient operation, such as turning radius and flexibility in operations.

- Newer apparatus is much better for the environment. Older apparatus discharges approximately 8 tons of air pollution each year. Newer apparatus discharges 90% less pollution. Major improvements are made for 2007 apparatus. (A fact sheet follows these bullets.)

- In the past two years, Asheville City Council has provided AFR three quick response vehicles to better manage cost per mile, but more importantly improve emergency response times.

- Replacement fire apparatus will be requested in the FY 07-08 budget requests.

NEWER FIRE ENGINES SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE POLLUTION

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Model year 2007 new emissions standards will result in 90% cleaner emissions than current models. Once fully implemented this new standard will have the equivalent of removing the pollution from more than 13 million trucks and buses.

An older, dirtier diesel vehicle can emit almost eight tons of air pollution each year. EPA has determined that diesel exhaust is likely to cause lung cancer in humans. This action will reduce 2.6 million tons of smog-causing nitrogen oxide emissions each year once the program is fully implemented. Emissions of soot, or particulate matter, will be reduced by nearly 110,000 tons each year. As a result, today's action will prevent 8,300 premature deaths, 5,500 cases of chronic bronchitis, and 17,600 cases of acute bronchitis in children. It will also avoid over 360,000 asthma attacks and more than 386,000 cases of respiratory symptoms in asthmatic children annually. The action will prevent 1.5 million lost work days, 7,100 hospital admissions and 2,400 emergency room visits for asthma every year.

This is new emission standard is achieved by:

- Vehicle high-efficiency catalytic exhaust emission control devices
- Vehicle particulate matter exhaust traps
- Ultra-low sulfur ULSD diesel fuel